

Oxbow's Birdathon '88 Exceeds Its Goal

After a pleasant 24 hours in the field on May 5 and 6, everyone agreed that Birdathon '88 was a birding success. With 134 species recorded by the top team and a composite total of 178 species tallied by the eleven teams, it was a birding success. But it was not until early August when the last of the pledges was honored that the financial success of the event was calculated.

Most participants had expected Oxbow, Inc. to net something between \$2,000 and \$5,000. However, with all expenses paid, the final balance came to \$8,335.74, all of which goes toward the land acquisition fund. The pledges totaled \$8,535.52. The cost for supplies, copies of instructions, and postage was \$125.18. Twenty T-shirts used as prizes cost \$73.60, so expenses totaled \$199.60. Because we had more pledges and higher dollar amounts than expected, the Birdathon was a rousing financial success.

As treasurer for Oxbow, it is my pleasure to thank all who participated and wish them well in the next one, Birdathon '89, scheduled for May 1989. If you wish to be a participant, please call me at 481-4302 and add your name to the list of happy Birdathoners.

Art Wiseman, Treasurer

Large Numbers of Water Birds Invade Oxbow Area

After a very dry winter, spring, and early summer, it seemed unlikely that many birds would visit the Oxbow area this summer. However, in spite of the low water level, a large number of birds arrived at the end of July and early August. Ron Austing, while videotaping in the area, reported that well over 300 shore birds arrived en masse. Included were dowitchers and stilt, and solitary, pectoral, and least sandpipers. The following morning he found a few hundred great blue herons and nearly a dozen great egrets feeding at the lake, probably feasting on the thousands of fish forced into the small area of the greatly reduced lake. Later that evening a couple of dozen black-crowned night herons replaced the great blues. Huge flocks of purple martins, estimated at over 3,000, and other species of swallows skimmed the water and roosted in the late evening on the nearby power lines. Many of the birds remained at the Oxbow lake for at least two weeks and were enjoyed by many regional birders.

These large numbers of visitors provided -- and, as we go to press, are still providing -- the best birding that has been witnessed here in the last several years. Everyone agrees that this was typical of the Oxbow in the good old days but a rare occurrence of late. Speculation ranges widely as to why the birds have arrived in such great numbers. Has the recent burst of rain brought forth additional insects? Are nesting areas lacking to the north, thereby forcing the birds to return south without nesting? Possibly the Oxbow is the only wetland left in our region to offer good available habitat -- mudflats, fish, insects, etc.

Whatever the reasons, it truly has been the good old Oxbow of yesteryear. We hope Oxbow, Inc. can successfully preserve the area within these conditions on a more permanent basis.

-A.J. W.



Charlie Harper Oxbow T-Shirts Now Available

Have you seen the latest and greatest in T-shirts, now available through Oxbow, Inc.? You're sure to know them because the design is a Charles Harper original. If you know Charlie's unique work, you will instantly recognize his wood duck. The T-shirts picture the duck floating on water in a central oval, with the slogan "The Duck Stops Here" emblazoned above the oval and "Save the Oxbow" below.



The white T-shirts are the best-quality 50% cotton, 50% polyester. They are machine washable, but do shrink slightly on the first washing. The design is printed in two colors -- black for the main features on a blue water background. The characteristic field marks of the wood duck are clearly presented in bright white.

The T-shirts are being sold as a fund-raising project, with all profits to go to Oxbow, Inc. for land acquisition. Prices are \$8 for Oxbow, Inc. members, \$10 for nonmembers. They are available in adult sizes small, medium, large, and extra large; extra-extra large shirts are available for \$2 more. Children's sizes will soon be in stock. Currently the shirts are for sale at the Wisemans', 2073 Harrison Avenue (phone 481-4302). They can also be purchased at the Cincinnati Nature Center Shop and at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History Collector's Shop.

The T-shirts are also available at each Oxbow function, and we are looking for more outlets of this kind. If you have contacts with another environmental group that might allow us to sell T-shirts at their functions, please let us know. We need exposure in as many places as possible.

Remember Dad and Mother, Sis and Brother, and Uncle Rodney, too -- all will want an Oxbow T-shirt, which makes a great gift for friends and relatives (not to mention the occasional good-looking stranger). Be sure to purchase one for yourself, too. From the quick sale of the initial order, we know these T-shirts are well-received by all who see them. So make up your list and contact us (481-4302) soon while prime T-shirt weather is still with us.

And, once you buy your personal T-shirt, wear it. The design is so striking that it elicits comment, and people who don't know the Oxbow from a hacksaw always ask about it. Such one-on-one outreach is a valuable opportunity to educate people about the Oxbow in particular and about conservation and wetlands in general. Wear your shirt and be ready to talk!

Special Thanks

It would be difficult to single out each individual who has recently aided Oxbow, Inc. in some special way, because so many have been so helpful. However, there are two people who deserve special mention at this time.

Fritz Haas wrote to suggest, several months before any attempt was made to put the event together, that we conduct Birdathon '88. Then, once we got rolling with the contest, he was instrumental in working out important details.

Charles Harper, noted wildlife artist, contributed his talents to Oxbow by preparing the unique design for our stunning new Oxbow T-shirts from our rough ideas of what might be appropriate. Charlie also took the time to put together the final drawing from which the manufacturer could work.

We extend our sincere thanks to these two whose outstanding contributions were donated so generously and so willingly.

Thanks to Jack's Camera

for the company's extremely generous donation of a Kodak carousel slide projector and slide trays for use by our busy Speakers Bureau. Jack's Camera is located in downtown Cincinnati at Fourth & Walnut; you might want to consider their generosity to Oxbow, Inc. next time you're shopping for photographic equipment.

Raptor T-Shirts Available

Raptor, Inc., a rehabilitation organization that cares for injured birds of prey, has also issued a T-shirt displaying their logo -- also designed by Charles Harper. It shows a mouse hot-footing its way across a field in the shadow of a hawk in flight. The emblem is printed in black on a beige shirt. Adult sizes: small, medium, large, extra large. Members pay \$8, non-members pay \$10 per shirt. For information, call Bill Moring at 541-8607, or Art Wiseman at 481-4302.

Audubon Society Visited by John James Audubon, Live!



Join the Audubon Society Wednesday, October 26, at 7:30 p.m., the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History Auditorium, for a special treat. Michael Burnham, an accomplished actor, storyteller, and professor of theatre at the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music, will present his one-man show in which he plays the famous wildlife artist and naturalist, who began his professional career as an artist right here in Cincinnati. If you were closed out of the Museum's July riverboat cruise featuring Burnham as Audubon, now's your chance to catch this Bicentennial-year show -- on dry land and at no charge.

Volunteers Needed for the County Parks Levy

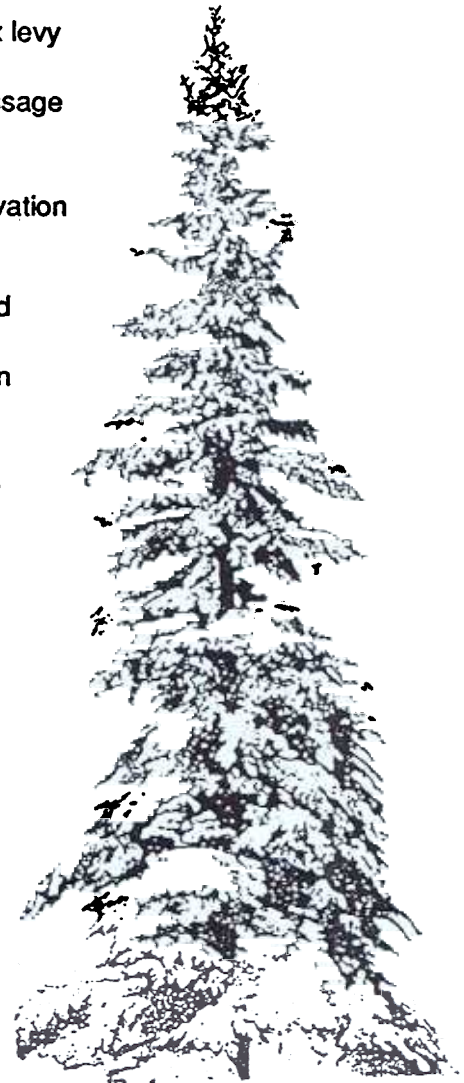
As an Oxbow, Inc. member, you're probably aware of the proposed 1 mill tax levy for the Hamilton County Parks that will be on the Hamilton County ballot November 8. Thirty-one percent of the funds that would be generated by passage of the levy are designated for land acquisition -- wetlands, critical parcels adjacent to existing parks, and new parks and nature preserves. Another 14 percent would be used to provide outdoor recreation compatible with conservation of natural resources at new parks.

Although, as this issue of the newsletter went to press, the Oxbow, Inc. Board of Trustees had not yet met to consider endorsing the levy, all indications were that the Board would indeed vote in favor of endorsement. The Hamilton County Parks have been a good friend of Oxbow, Inc. And, the cordial relationship between the Parks and Oxbow, Inc. aside, the Hamilton County Park District does have an impressive record of land and fiscal management.

Because the Board has not yet formally endorsed the Parks levy, we will not discuss the details of the levy in this issue of the newsletter. But we will pass this request from the Park District on to you: The Hamilton County Parks have asked volunteers from local conservation groups to work on the levy campaign. They are hoping to amass a force of 1,000 volunteers to reach all 500,000 of Hamilton County's registered voters. Volunteers will concentrate their efforts on:

- brief phone calls to registered voters reminding them to vote and to vote for the parks
- hand-delivering brochures to registered voters the weekend of October 22 & 23
- working the polls on November 8

As the newsletter went to press, a levy campaign office was just being settled on and no phone number was yet available. A call to the Hamilton County Park District, however -- 521-PARK -- will surely yield a number that volunteers can call to sign up for whatever work they wish to do.



Name

New Address

Old Address

City/State/Zip

City/State/Zip

Effective Date

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc. 2073 Harrison Ave Cinti, OH 45214

Raptor, Inc. Presents Douglas Wood

Raptor, Inc. is presenting a different and exciting kind of program -- a performance by Douglas Wood, an outstanding entertainer who combines art, science, and environmental education through the medium of music.

Wood has performed nationwide for many environmental groups. Last spring he was a featured guest at the National Wildlife Rehabilitator Association conference in Denver, Colorado. Raptor, Inc. members who heard him there decided to bring Wood and his songs and stories with their messages about our natural world to Cincinnati.

Wood will be on stage at the Raymond Walters College Auditorium (Room 119, Academic Building) at 8 p.m. on Friday, September 16, 1988. Tickets are \$5 each and may be ordered by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Raptor, Inc., 5805 Glenview Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45224. For details, call Bill Moring at 541-8607.

Memorials Established by Oxbow, Inc.

Oxbow, Inc. has established Memorials to honor those who have passed on. Each Memorial established in the name of a friend or loved one will be enrolled permanently in the records of the corporation. Each contribution to a Memorial will be acknowledged to the family or to those selected by the donor. Each contribution should be sent to the Treasurer, Oxbow, Inc., 2073 Harrison Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45214. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of the donor and of those who are to receive an acknowledgement.

The following Memorials have recently been established with Oxbow, Inc.:

In Memory of
Walter A. Rentschler
Mrs. Helen Vonderheide

Donor
W. Rowell Chase
Bill & Ann Moring

Meetings

Tuesday, September 13, 7:30 p.m., Cincinnati Zoo, Education building. The guest speaker will be either Karl Maslowski or Steve Maslowski, noted wildlife photographers/ filmmakers/ writers. Whichever Maslowski speaks will surprise us with one of the Maslowski films of his choosing.

Tuesday, October 11, 7:30 p.m., the Lawrenceburg Public Library (on West High Street next to the Courthouse). Ed Guljas, District Wildlife Biologist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, will talk about and show slides of barn owls.

Field Trips

Saturday, September 17, 9:00 a.m. Meet Dave Styer at the 50's Root Beer parking lot, Rte. 50 at West I-275, for a trip to the Oxbow lake to see shorebirds.

Saturday, October 8, 9:00 a.m. Meet Steve Wagner at the 50's Root Beer parking lot before migrating to the Oxbow lake.

Executive Committee

President, John Miller	812-438-3920
Vice President, Ned Keller	513-941-6497
Secretary, Norma Flannery	513-471-8001
Treasurer, Art Wiseman	513-481-4302
Agent, Dave Styer	513-772-4395

Committee Chairpersons

Fund Raising, Greg Mendell	812-926-1966
Preservation, Rick Bramstedt	513-662-4456
Programs, Judy Bramstedt	513-662-4456
Research, Kaniaulono Meyer	513-948-8630
Speakers Bureau, Kaniaulono Meyer	513-948-8630
Volunteer Coordinator, Cay Tuck	513-631-5933

Editor

Norma Flannery	513-471-8001
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Oxbow, Inc.

A non-profit organization formed by conservation groups and concerned citizens of Ohio and Indiana for the purpose of preserving and protecting a wetlands area known locally as the Oxbow, Hardintown, or Horseshoe Bottoms, from future industrial development and to preserve the existing agricultural floodplain at the confluence of the Great Miami and Ohio Rivers for use as a staging area for the seasonal migrations of waterfowl. This is an agricultural area rich in geological, archaeological and anthropological history.

Help us save this unique wetland. You can make your state a richer place in which to live by helping us preserve this precious resource.

Membership in Oxbow, Inc. is solicited and encouraged.

Individual	\$10	Organization/Club	\$25	Cornerstone	\$250
Family	\$15	Supporting	\$50	Sponsor	\$500
Contributing	\$25	Patron	\$100	Benefactor	\$1000

Mail to: OXBOW, INC.

2073 Harrison Avenue

Cincinnati, Ohio 45214



Oxbow, Inc.
2073 Harrison Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45214

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